

**FOR PRESS:**

**P.H. No. 68 of 1966.**

The following message has been received by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, from President Johnson of the United States of America -

"I HAVE JUST LEARNED OF YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AUSTRALIA WILL SEND AN ADDITIONAL 300 SOLDIERS TO SOUTH VIETNAM, TO REINFORCE THE ARMY BATTALION YOU ALREADY HAVE THERE. THIS SPONTANEOUS DECISION IS ONE MORE PROOF OF THE COURAGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. IT WILL GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND IT WILL BRING NEARER THE DAY WHEN AGGRESSION IS TURNED BACK AND PEACE RESTORED. I KNOW FROM ALL OUR TALKS AND MESSAGES FROM ONE ANOTHER THAT YOU AND I SEE EYE TO EYE, JUST AS OUR COUNTRIES STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER. WE WILL BE PROUD TO HAVE THESE AUSTRALIANS WITH US IN VIETNAM.

**SINCERELY,**

**LYNDON B. JOHNSON."**

.....

**Canberra.**

**20th August 1966.**